

Dame *HUDDLE'S*
LETTER
TO
Mrs. S—d her Landlady,
WITH HER
Landlady's Answer.



L O N D O N ;

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Dame Huddle's Letter, &c.

Madam,

THIS is to let you know that Miss is very well, she is grown such a pure Girl you will admire when you see her; she can speak a great many words very plain. *Joan* desires to know if the last Turkies pleas'd you. *Eleanor* has the Toothach very bad, and *Humphry* has sprain'd his Uncle with Dancing on Twelfth-night; but I laid the green Ointment to it, and he is so well now he can go with Master *Tommy* to School. But, Madam, the reason of my writing to you now is (for *Eleanor* says she writ lately) to know what is done with Dr. *Sacheverell*; for my Husband brought a Sermon of his, and some other little Books, for the Minister from Market; but truly he read them first. The Sermon makes a great Fraction amongst us. The Parson has been ask'd the Question to give us his Opinion of it, and the Defence of it; but he says he won't say one word about it till the Parliament is up. My Gaffer and I was at Neighbour *Smith*'s Help-Ale, and there the High Constable was as hot as Mustard, he was fain to take a turn in the Yard to cool himself. He said, If they hurt a Leg or an Arm of him, if Master voted for it, he'd ne'er bring in a Man for him at an Election; no, he'd not bring in himself, nor his Horse. That Word set my Back up, and I said, As Master had not brib'd to be chose, so I hop'd he would not betray his Trust;

for they that buy must sell, or else they have a bad bargain on't, but do according to his Conscience. My Gaffer only said, he would inform himself as well as he could against next Election, and keep a good Conscience: But, Madam, since you were so kind to give me your Mind concerning the *Dutch*'s trading with the *French*, in the low Parlour; and before the Union with the *Scotch*, in the Arbour; and about the *Palatines*, at *Alice Humings*'s Burying, if you remember it; pray be pleas'd to send me your Mind about this Sermon: for Goodman *Staidman*'s Child is to be christen'd next Friday, and there it will be box'd about; and I am in a great quandary about it, and the more because my Gaffer has trusted Neighbour *Cole* with a great deal of Malt, whom we took to be a very honest Man, but you know he is a strong Presbyterian; and if you think they are such People as the Doctor describes, *Richard* shall call in his Mony, for he shan't send our Mony before him to the Devil. Pray be pleas'd to send me an Answer as soon as you can. And, Madam, I havⁿ thought to ask you several times, and still have forgot, why you did not go to Church on the Thirtieth of *January*. Pray resolve me. I rest

Jan. the 20.

Your humble Servant to

command to my Power,

My Daughter *Amey* desires to know if the newest fashion for cutting of Petticoats be yet as your black and white one was that you wore before you went to *London*.

Bridget Huddle.

Mrs.

Mrs. S——d's Answer to Bridget
Huddle's Letter.

Friend Bridget,

IN answer to yours, I am afraid the Doctor don't mean honestly ; for he speaks that concerning the Revolution that don't convince, for it is not true. He is for keeping the old baffled Cause of Passive-Obedience and Non-Resistance to the Church safe and sound, when it is plain they left it, as appears by their inviting over and joining the Prince of *Orange*, who came with Force and Arms to pursue the Ends of his Declaration, and to smite under the fifth Rib all that oppos'd him. If King *James* had staid with his Army at *Salisbury*, and oppos'd him, no body doubts but the Doctor, but he would have repel'd Force with Force ; for else how could he have got a Free Parliament chose ? But the Doctor would have it that the Prince, and the Noblemen and Gentlemen that were with him, came over a mumming, or else like a Band of Quakers to have kept a silent Meeting in *England* ; for it must have been a silent one if they were not to draw their Swords : for if they had petition'd, as the Bishops had done, for their Sauciness they had been sent to the *Tower* ; but they drew their Swords, and many of them flung away the Scabbard, and it pleas'd God, for which we bless him at all times, and solemnly at Church on the Fifth of *November*, for giving his late Majesty a safe Arrival here, and for making all Opposition fall before him ; for so it was every where but at *Reading*,

ding, where it is well known the Prince's Men did not cry Quarter. But if they were not to resist, to what end did my Lord *Delamere's* Speech bode upon *Boden Downes* to his Neighbours and Tenants, when he told his Tenants before they join'd the Prince, if they fell in Battel, he would renew their Leases with their Sons? Notwithstanding all the Passive-Doctrine vented in that Reign, and the last before it, the People show'd, when alarm'd of the *Irish*, that Self-Preservation is a first Principle, for they all arm'd. Now if it had been so, according to these Principles, they were God's Ministers to them for good, and were not to be resisted; and what a fine History would that have been for the Doctor to have writ? for I suppose if it had come to, he would have hid himself somewhere to have sav'd one. But he had better save his Breath to cool his Porrage, than to preach Passive-Doctrine to the good People of *England*; for he'll do no more good of them, than the Quaker that went to convert the Pope of *Rome*. His Defender would fain prove Non-Resistance by Dr. *Sancroft*. Now the Archbishop did not abscond till after all these warlike Preparations; but the old Gentleman, as far as I could hear, was reserv'd upon the Business, and his Reasons were *in Petto*, perhaps he had not read Bishop *Overal's* Convocation-Book: what were his Reasons, I don't know, but Matters were very well done without him. The Doctor tells us, pag. 13. *The King solemnly disclaim'd the least Imputation of Resistance.* Now it is plain he came to rectify those Grievances mention'd, and to have all settled in a Free Parliament, who are the proper Judges; or else what did he come over for? (as the Country Wench said

said to the Parson, when he ask'd her, Wilt thou have this Man to be thy wedded Husband ? What did I come hither for else ?) King James's Guards being shifted, he understood himself a Prisoner, and would not wait the Resolves of the Parliament. As for the Prince's disclaiming Conquest, it was the right of the Case, and the reason of the Thing ; for if the People had once took a fancy he was come to conquer them, it would have hindred his slow March. But the Doctor is not nice in his Distinctions, for there is a vast difference between a Title by Conquest, and by Consent ; therefore I join with the Doctor that the Book was well burnt, and I wish all of the same strain may have the same *Roman Funeral*. But I always pity'd the late King James, when he was hit in the Teeth with his Desertion ; for shame let it not be nam'd to Man or Woman, for he was plainly driven out, and for the same good Reasons *kept out* when he was return'd with War into *Ireland*, at the expence of the Blood of those brave Men, who were as zealous for the Constitution as *Sacheverel*, and acted according to it. But to tell you my Opinion, the Doctor is so chary of Passive-Obedience and Non-Resistance, I am afraid he designs to make his Court with them to you know who. But if he do all as do he may, the People will never return to that Slavery, that worse than *Egyptian Bondage*, they have had so cruel a sample of : for it is a greater Imposition to make us believe, or to make us lye, and say we believe a bit of Bread to be God and Man, that very Body that was broken for us on the Cross, Flesh, Blood and Bones, and this in ten thousand Places at once ; than the Taskmasters that made the *Israelites* make

make Brick without Straw ; for they might chance to find Straw, but we can't find Belief, as appears by all those noble Burnt-Offerings in Queen *Mary's* time.

Dame *Huddle*, I am for dying a Martyr for Religion, when I can do nothing else to preserve it, but not before. As for what you desir'd to know, what is to be done with the Doctor, it is now upon the Anvil, he is to appear before the Parliament ; some think he'll be acquitted, and some think he'll be banish'd : but of this more in my next, and why I don't go to Church on the Thirtieth of *January*.

Your Friend,

M. S.

FINIS.

B  L

